

The first note is by Mr. Wasey from Marmagao, describing the capture of a bull-frog. He notices the eagerness of the shrew to recapture the frog when separated, and the ultimate removal of its dead victim.

The second note is written by Major F'rall, I.M.S., and describes the finding of a toad, under the steps of the Residency at Baroda, in the grip of a muskrat.

The shrew had it between the eyes and was holding on like a bull-terrier.

The remains of other toads were found in the same place.

It would appear therefore that occasionally the shrew departs from his diet of insects, and takes to flesh eating.

W. B. BANNERMAN, LT.-COL., I.M.S.

PLAGUE RESEARCH LABORATORY,

PAREL, 7th August, 1905.

No. XVII.—DOUBLE-HEADED SNAKES.

With reference to a note on Double Headed Snakes contributed by me to this Journal (Vol. XVI, p. 387), I have just acquired a very interesting paper on this subject which appeared in the Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters (Vol. XIII, Part II, 1901) by Mr. R. H. Johnson. The writer gives skiagrams of 13 specimens collected from various museums in America, and refers to 17 other instances of this abnormality culled from literature dating as far back as 1649.

As the magazine in which this appears probably does not come under the notice of the majority of our readers, a few excerpts from this very complete paper will doubtless prove interesting.

In all the 30 cases the cephalic extremity was reduplicated, and in 3 of these the caudal end was also bifurcate.

Three examples occurred in individuals of the same brood recorded by Mitchill in 1826, and 2 of these were reduplicated posteriorly.

The vertebral division, judging from the skiagrams, is always considerably more extensive than is indicated by the cutaneous attachment, and this was the case in the Fyzabad specimen I recorded.

In 3 of the 13 specimens the skulls were confluent posteriorly, and in the rest the heads and necks were distinct. Separate heads and necks are also the rule in the other cases cited, but figures cannot be quoted owing to some of the descriptions being insufficient. In 2 of the 3 examples with confluent skulls, the apposed parietal shields are blended into one, but in the third this point is not manifest. In 3 of the 13 specimens the skulls are malformed, the lower jaw or eyes or both being deficient.

In 2 of the 13 there is an angular vertebral projection as in the Fyzabad specimen, but the skiagrams show that this projection does not occur at the exact site of the vertebral blending, but at some little distance behind.

The most extensive reduplication of the 13 shows 67 cervical vertebrae on one side and 72 on the other, but the specimen recorded by Redi in 1684 is

bifid to the middle of the back, and in this there are two œsophagi, lungs, stomachs, hearts, and livers.

The most remarkable specimen, however, is that recorded by Wyman in 1863 in which both cephalic and caudal extremities are double, and there are two vertebral columns provided each with their distinct sets of ribs and organs.

Only 4 of the 13 specimens Mr. Johnson examined are recorded as embryos or young.

F. WALL, C.M.Z.S.,
CAPTAIN, I. M. S.

MUSSOORIE, 21st August, 1905.

NO. XVIII.—ACCIDENT TO THE YOUNG OF THE INDIAN
CLIFF-SWALLOW (*HIRUNDO FLUVICOLA*).

I see in the last issue of the Society's Journal a note by Major Begbie stating his discovery of dead young birds in the nests of *Hirundo fluvicola* (The Indian Cliff-Swallow). It may be of interest to him and to others to know that I found the same thing on the Nerbudda River on April 9th, this year. The dead birds were fully fledged or nearly so, and consisted of bones and feathers. I saw no maggots as Major Begbie did, but very likely they had been eaten in the same way. I saw 15 or 20 young birds in this state in the whole colony of 80 to 100 nests.

MARTIN YOUNG, M.B.O.U.
(1st York and Lanc. Regiment).

MHOW, C. I., 20th August, 1905.

NO. XIX.—LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT IN BURMA—
A CORRECTION.

Since writing my note on the occurrence of Lady Amherst's Pheasant (*Chrysolophus amherstiae*) in Burma that appeared on p. 512 of this Volume, Mr. E. W. Oates has drawn my attention to a previous record of it that he referred to in the appendix to the second part of his "Manual of the Game Birds of India." Therein he wrote, p. 497: "Quite recently a male specimen of this species was obtained on the Burmo-Chinese frontier by one of the officers attached to the Boundary Delimitation Commission. This bird was forwarded to Mr. Rowland Ward, who sent it to the Museum of Natural History for inspection, and thus it came to my knowledge. I understand that it was shot on the frontier either in the Myitkyina or the Bhamo District."

Although this somewhat indefinite record was sufficient to establish this pheasant as an "Indian" bird, the detailed record of the specimen obtained by Lieutenant Van Someren is none the less interesting.

E. COMBER, F.Z.S.

BOMBAY, 4th September, 1905.